

Approved on October 3, 2013

**Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, September 5, 2013
Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

Attendance

Commissioners Present: John Becker, Kris Dighe, Clark Reed, Julie Palakovich Carr, Alicia Hosmer, Steve Cardon and Lea Rosenbohm

Commissioners Absent: Beri Kravitz, Devinie Lye

Guests: Heather Gewandter, Environmental Management;
Lydia Han and Lucas Peterson, Residents and Prospective Student Commissioners

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:35 pm by Chair Reed.

Approval of the Agenda and July and August Meeting Minutes

Chair Reed asked if there were any additions to the agenda. None were suggested. Commissioner Dighe moved and Commissioner Becker seconded approval of the July 3, 2013, meeting minutes with no corrections. The motion passed 6-0-1 (Commissioner Cardon abstained). Commissioner Hosmer moved and Commissioner Becker seconded approval of the August 1, 2013, minutes with Commissioner Dighe's edits. The motion passed 7-0.

General Meeting Improvement

- Commissioner Palakovich Carr asked to try and reduce the amount of paper distributed at meetings. She suggested that Mark Charles send an email asking for a count of Commissioners who do not need the hand-outs printed each month and would, instead, use their tablets during meetings. Other Commissioners agreed with this idea for minutes and agenda but stated that they may need printouts of other documents that would be discussed each meeting.

Environmental Excellence Awards

- Residents Hannaford, Scherbak and Woolery will be receiving their Environmental Excellence awards at the Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, September 30, 2013. All Commissioners are invited to attend.
- It was suggested that the Kol Shalom Synagogue (which the Commission toured in August) be invited to apply for an Environmental Excellence Award. Chair Reed said he would make that suggestion to the Kol Shalom contact.

Meet Prospective Student Commissioners

The Commissioners interviewed Lydia Han, current Wotton High School senior class president, and Lucas Peterson, current Montgomery College student, who are applicants for the vacant student commissioner. Subsequent to the meeting, the Commission voted (via Email) unanimously to recommend Lydia Han to the Mayor. Ms. Han was appointed at the meeting on September 14, 2013

The Commission intends to write a letter of thanks to former Student Commissioner Devinie Lye.

Upcoming Multi-City Meeting Planning

The Environment Commission decided to refocus this multi-city meeting on the “hot topics” of community solar and a Maryland Senate Bill that promotes diversifying those entities that can produce and sell energy. The Commission will invite three expert speakers to the meeting. Chair Reed will ask an EPA local energy production specialist to introduce the idea of community solar, and provide context to how it fits into the local energy production framework. Commissioner Becker will ask the coordinator of the first community solar project to provide information on the project. This should include: background, how to set up the model, what communities need to do to allow for this model to work. Commissioner Palakovich Carr will research any House or Senate bill that discusses the local energy production and distribution topic and invite bill sponsors or lobbyists to the meeting.

Commissioner Hosmer will reach out to the multi-city group via the list-serv and collect a list of all the challenges currently facing the member jurisdictions. The list will be compiled and distributed to the attendees. Commissioner Dighe will revise the multi-city meeting agenda. Commissioner Cardon will coordinate, via email, pot luck desserts and drinks for the meeting.

Georgetown University Energy Prize

Chair Reed asked the Commission to give direction regarding the next step in applying for the Georgetown University Energy Prize. He reminded the group that it was a competition focused on municipal and residential reductions in energy consumption. The competition runs for four years with multiple review rounds including a letter of intent and entry fee (due December 31st). Chair Reed gave a high level overview about what activities would be performed during this competition and they included: neighborhood recruitment for energy savings; providing resources, like financial incentives, for energy savings upgrades to homes; and promoting residential energy production. The Commission had a discussion about the level of effort that would be needed to successfully compete as well as the type and amount of support City staff could provide. The group agreed to set up a meeting with EMD staff to discuss the details. The results of that conversation would be discussed at the next meeting and the Commission would vote on whether and/or how to proceed.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 by unanimous consensus.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Thursday, October 3, 2013**. This meeting will be held in the Diamondback Conference Room of the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland. The public is invited to attend.